



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 493**

February Session, 2008

House Bill No. 5824

*House of Representatives, April 7, 2008*

The Committee on Education reported through REP. FLEISCHMANN of the 18th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING THE ACCREDITATION OF SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAMS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subdivision (5) of subsection (a) of section 10-16p of the  
2 2008 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following  
3 is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2008*):

4 (5) "Accredited" means accredited by the National Association for  
5 the Education of Young Children, a Head Start on-site program review  
6 instrument or a successor instrument pursuant to federal regulations,  
7 or otherwise meeting such criteria as may be established by the  
8 commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner of Social  
9 Services, unless the context otherwise requires.

10 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 10-16q of the 2008 supplement to the  
11 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
12 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2008*):

13 (b) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, the per child cost of  
14 the Department of Education school readiness component of the  
15 program offered by a school readiness provider shall not exceed six  
16 thousand six hundred fifty dollars.

17 (2) For fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, the per child cost of the  
18 Department of Education school readiness component of the program  
19 offered by a school readiness provider shall not exceed six thousand  
20 nine hundred twenty-five dollars, except that such per child cost shall  
21 be increased for the month of January, 2008, and each month  
22 thereafter. The increase shall be determined by the department so that  
23 the cost of the increase shall equal fifty per cent of what the  
24 department estimates on January 1, 2008, will be unspent by June 30,  
25 2008, from the appropriation for purposes of subsection (c) of section  
26 10-16p of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes. In no event shall  
27 such increase cause the per child cost to exceed eight thousand two  
28 hundred sixty-six dollars.

29 (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (e) of section 10-  
30 16p of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, the Department of  
31 Education shall not provide funding to any school readiness provider  
32 that (A) on or before January 1, 2004, first entered into a contract with a  
33 town to provide school readiness services pursuant to this section and  
34 is not accredited on January 1, 2007, or (B) after January 1, 2004, first  
35 entered into a contract with a town to provide school readiness  
36 services pursuant to this section and does not become accredited by  
37 the date three years after the date on which the provider first entered  
38 into such a contract, except that the Commissioner of Education may  
39 grant an extension of time for a school readiness program to become  
40 accredited or reaccredited, provided (i) prior to such extension, the  
41 Department of Education conducts an on-site assessment of any such  
42 program and maintains a report of such assessment completed in a  
43 uniform manner, as prescribed by the commissioner, that includes a  
44 list of conditions such program must fulfill to become accredited or  
45 reaccredited, (ii) the program is licensed by the Department of Public  
46 Health, (iii) the program has a corrective action plan that shall be

47 prescribed by and monitored by the Commissioner of Education, and  
48 (iv) the program meets such other conditions as may be prescribed by  
49 the commissioner. During the period of such extension, such program  
50 shall be eligible for funding pursuant to said section 10-16p, as  
51 amended by this act.

52 [(3)] (4) A school readiness provider may provide child day care  
53 services and the cost of such child day care services shall not be subject  
54 to such per child cost limitation.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2008	10-16p(a)(5)
Sec. 2	July 1, 2008	10-16q(b)

**ED**      *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose:

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***OFA Fiscal Note***

***State Impact:*** None

***Municipal Impact:*** None

***Explanation***

The bill allows the Commissioner of Education to grant an extension of school readiness deadlines as long as specific criteria are met. The bill also specifies that the definition of “accredited” applies unless the context otherwise requires. The bill is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact.

***The Out Years***

***State Impact:*** None

***Municipal Impact:*** None

**OLR Bill Analysis****HB 5824*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE ACCREDITATION OF SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAMS.*****SUMMARY:**

By law, the State Department of Education (SDE) may not provide funding to school readiness providers that first entered into a contract with a town to provide services (1) on or before January 1, 2004 and were not accredited as of January 1, 2007 and (2) after January 1, 2004 and are or were not accredited within three years of that date. This bill allows the commissioner to extend these deadlines, as long as:

1. SDE conducts an on-site assessment of the program before the extension and keeps a report of the assessment in a uniform commissioner-prescribed manner that includes the conditions necessary for accreditation;
2. the program is licensed by the Department of Public Health;
3. the program has a corrective action plan prescribed and monitored by the education commissioner; and
4. the program meets any other conditions the commissioner determines.

By law, "accredited" means accreditation by (1) the National Association for the Education of Young Children, (2) a Head Start on-site program review instrument, or (3) otherwise meeting criteria established by the education commissioner in consultation with the social services commissioner. The bill also specifies that this definition applies unless the context otherwise requires, for example, where the statutes reference accredited higher education institutions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2008

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Education Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea    27    Nay   1    (03/14/2008)